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NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 30A ss. 3 and pursuant to the authority found in M.G.L. Ch. 130 ss. 17A, 80 and 104, Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) have established a public comment period on the following proposed changes to 1) eligibility criteria for Outer Cape Cod Trap Allocations (322 CMR 6.13), 2) purse seining for Atlantic bluefin tuna in Cape Cod Bay (322 CMR 6.04), and 3) a proposed exemption to vessel upgrade provisions for Coastal Access Permit holders (322 CMR 7.05).

- 1. Coastal Lobster permit holders endorsed for the Outer Cape Lobster Conservation Management Area (Outer Cape) who received permits off the waiting list during 2001 but did not fish in 2001 may appeal for an Outer Cape Cod Trap Allocation based on their 2002 fishing performance in the Outer Cape.**
- 2. Proposal to ban purse seine vessels from fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in Cape Cod Bay in any year prior to the annual federal General Category quota being reached.**
- 3. Coastal Access Permit Lobster permit holders authorized to fish on a vessel less than 40 feet in length overall, may appeal to the Director for an exemption to exceed the allowed increases in length and /or tonnage by up to 20%.**

Contact *MarineFisheries* for draft regulations and further details. Written comments may be received by e-mail, (marine.fish@state.ma.us), fax (617.626.1509), or mail (DMF; 251 Causeway St., Suite 400; Boston, MA 02114) and will be accepted until 9AM on Thursday, July 29, 2004.

For further information please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.